

ABSTRACT

An efficient oil based drilling fluid is provided that includes a polymer additive effective at imparting suspension characteristics without the presence of organophilic clays, while also providing filtration control. The fluid is shear thinning and has good fluid rheology over a broad temperature range. A preferred polymer for the additive is substantially linear and comprises mostly hydrophobic monomers and some hydrophilic monomers such as, for example, an emulsion copolymer of 2-ethylhexyl acrylate and acrylic acid.